

Evening Public Ledger THE EVENING TELEGRAPH PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY... EDITORIAL BOARD: CHARLES H. LUDINGTON, Vice President John C. Martin, Secretary and Treasurer Philip S. Callahan, John B. Williams, John J. Spurgeon, Directors...

Published daily at Public Ledger Building, Independence Square, Philadelphia, Pa. Telephone 422. Subscriptions: \$10.00 per year in advance...

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Philadelphia, Saturday, March 1, 1919

ARE YOU GOING TO VOTE FOR THE NEXT MAYOR?

"CIVIC righteousness" can get nowhere in a community in which thousands of citizens regularly permit themselves to be disfranchised.

The Baptist ministers, who have begun a campaign for better city government, stress this elemental fact in calling upon all Philadelphians desirous of putting the words into practice to perform the simple duty of political registration.

Twice a year machine politicians count gleefully upon the prospect that many otherwise estimable citizens will fail to secure the right to vote.

The remedy is as easy and as painless as it is imperatively necessary. This spring the reason for applying it is of prime importance, for registration on the day assigned carries with it the right to vote in the majority primaries.

The Baptists should be supported to the limit in their insistence on full registration as the initial practical step toward a better administered Philadelphia.

The selection of a fit nominee for Mayor will be only a visionary performance unless all the campaigners for municipal progress are first qualified to cast their ballots for him.

ONE PLACE WHERE THE PRESIDENT MAY TALK FREELY

THE President is assured of at least one person who will keep any diplomatic secrets for a couple of years. By that time, moreover, the recipient will have forgotten all about them, and so the security is complete.

It is a matter of pride to Philadelphia that it is a present resident of this city to whom Mr. Wilson is thus enabled to impart the feeling, however, that his Chief Executive will actually say comparatively little about the league of nations or the Czecho-Slovak or the Bolshevik when he conducts that specially arranged interview here next Tuesday.

And the odd part of it is that, although the subject of conversation is likely to be extremely simple, the language in which it will be couched is apt to be formidably cryptic. Considerable gurgling may be expected and a variety of presidential gestures not ordinarily displayed at the Quail d'Orsay. It is doubtful if the official interpreter from the peace temple would be able to translate much of the dialogue into any intelligible tongue.

But little Master W. W. Sayre should enjoy it as much as he enjoys anything else, while his delighted grandpapa will not have to preface a single burble or dandle with a deprecatory "May I not?" As to the prospect of "world chaos," how is it possible to consider it in the presence of anything so "fundamental" as a grandson?

No matter what Congress does, the coming historic scene is bound to be a happy one and Philadelphia is mightily pleased to provide it.

"WELL DONE" FOR A FAITHFUL PUBLIC SERVANT

THE resignation of Charles Piez as director general of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, and of his coworker, Howard W. Conoley, as vice president, closes a chapter in the history of our war shipyards in which their services reflect the highest credit.

In the face of the most embarrassing difficulties, amid all the welter and confusion attendant upon the founding and maintenance of the world's greatest ship-building plant—Hog Island—these able administrators kept their heads, solved a multitude of complexities and handled a colossal concern with much skill.

Charles M. Schwab called Mr. Piez "one of the rising young men in America." Considering that he was born in 1866, the compliment is not merely facetious, for it emphasizes that youthful energy in Mr. Piez which was of such substantial value to the nation.

ON THE BURNING SANDS

THE passage of the Vickersman resolution has left several important matters "up in the air." But they will soon come down. Some of them will come down hard. Even the soberest aviator will occasionally take a drop too much.

"When is a man drunk?" was once on a time a question much debated. The prohibition answer to the question is, "Any time before July 1, but not later."

The question today is, "What is an intoxicant?" Every "wet" in the state answers by giving a list of "things that

ain't." This, according to their view, includes beer and light wines.

The question is a live one simply because the "wets" declare that the state has a right to answer it in its own way. The "drys" aver that Congress alone can authoritatively give the definition. If the "drys" are right, there is pathos rather than invitation in what the Governor of North Carolina said to the Governor of South Carolina and state rights are dead.

"This prohibition is a rum go!" wails the "wet." It is but a feeble attempt at dry humor, but who can blame him? At such a time even the sprightliest Judy Spirt will lack punch.

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when he says we are not likely to be drawn into any future wars if we keep out of the league. With all due respect to the distinguished gentleman, he knows better than that. We are neighbors to the whole world and there can be no fire anywhere without putting our own house in danger. Why, so recently as the Boxer uprising in China we had to join with other nations in using our military force to protect our nationals on the other side of the earth. It is impossible to get farther away from Washington than China.

Now as to Asiatic immigration, the Senator fears that the right of the Japanese, Chinese and Hindus to enter this country may be the subject of consideration by the league and that we may be ordered to admit immigrants of these races. And he expressed this fear after hearing the President explain that the men who drafted the covenant regarded the question of immigration as one of domestic concern with which the league could not interfere. This must inevitably be so. And there must be scores of other purely domestic questions which must be left to the settlement of the parties directly concerned. Otherwise the league would break down under the burden put upon it.

Mr. Lodge raises the bugaboo of internationalism to frighten us, and says we are asked to substitute it for nationalism and to accept an international state in the place of Americanism. This will terrify no one who understands what the new internationalism is. As Senator Hitchcock well said, it is a plan for an international agreement to protect the independent nations in their right to life and liberty when those precious rights are threatened. It is the very opposite of the internationalism of the Socialist, which seeks the creation and organization of a class consciousness among the workers of all nations in order that the state may be overthrown and one class the world over may have its will as the Bolsheviks are now having it in Russia. The new internationalism which we are asked to support is the surest guarantee for the preservation of nationalism and of Americanism.

The Senator seems to be grieved because the Peace Conference has not accepted his advice and drafted a peace treaty with Germany without considering the large issues involved in the creation of a league of nations. He demands that peace be made at once and that our soldiers be sent home.

We all want peace as soon as possible and we all want the soldiers back home. But the men around the peace table have discovered that an effective peace treaty is inextricably involved with the establishment of some international agreement which can enforce its provisions and protect the new states to be created out of the dissolving empires ruined by the war.

The Peace Conference is doing its best to make a treaty which no nation can regard with contempt as a mere scrap of paper. The conferees, as we understand it, regard the league covenant as an inseparable part of the peace agreement and necessary to its perfection.

We are willing to accept Senator Lodge's statement when he says that we are all striving for the same ends, but we cannot refrain from remarking that he seems to be doing his best to hinder rather than to help in the solution of the grave problems involved. His speech was prepared before he listened to the President's explanation of what the men who drafted the covenant sought to accomplish. He had found his verdict before he heard the evidence. He is applying the remark of the Scotchman who said he was willing to be convinced, but he would like to see the man who could convince him.

We regret exceedingly that the Senator has not risen to the occasion and delivered himself of a broad-minded, helpful discussion of a project which we are all hoping may be carried to a successful conclusion. The temper of his criticism is not good, nor, in spite of his professions to the contrary, does it seem to be that of a man who hopes that a workable league can be formed.

The action of the industrial board of the Department of Labor and Industry in preventing telegraph companies from using girls under eighteen as messengers will meet with general commendation. It is in accordance with the principle that women in winning their rights should not lose their greatest right of all—the right to be protected. Those who wish may put it this way: The public messenger service is one of the jobs not good enough for very young girls.

Cottin says it was Clemenceau's "tacit opposition to anarchists" that caused him to shoot the French Premier. It is perhaps too much to expect a crank to be logical—but a strict construction of Cottin's own creed would permit even a statesman to oppose, tacitly or otherwise, any blamed thing he objected to. So why shoot him for it?

Accumulating evidence seems to establish the fact that the Bolsheviks are no better than Huns.

The Parisian cools have not yet decided whether to have Peace porridge hot or Peace porridge cold.

Moreover, we have no guarantee that a congressional committee would act any more intelligently in Paris than in Washington.

Not even in wartime was the need more insistent than it is today that Congress should stand back of the President.

Clemenceau is back at his desk. He does not find in his wound an excuse to loaf. He is not a tiger of that stripe.

There was a touch of symbolism in that Washington parade in honor of home-coming soldiers. The President headed the procession starting from the Peace Monument.

CONGRESSMAN MOORE'S LETTER

Propriety of Celebrating the Completion of Trenton's New Delaware River Dock—Edison's Pessimism About the American Chemical Industry

Washington, D. C., March 1.

NEWS comes from Trenton that the new dock and terminal, for which Mayor Donnelly has been laboring for years, will be in operation, with trolley and railroad connections, along about the first of April. This work is so closely allied with the intracoastal project from New England to southern waters that a suggestion to celebrate it by a fitting demonstration on the Delaware from Philadelphia to Trenton is in order. This would give Mayor Ellis, of Camden, who is now probably the dean of the Delaware River Mayors; Mayor McDowell, of Chester, and all the intervening Mayors a chance to cooperate with the Mayor of Trenton. It would also give the Atlantic Deeper Waterways Association an opportunity to show what has been done on the upper Delaware and to prove the value of our North and South waterway connections. If the river and harbor bill, as now agreed upon by the Senate and House conferees, is not obstructed, the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal will be securely placed upon the map. That will bring the waters of the Chesapeake Bay to the Delaware River as far north as Trenton. It will suggest the wisdom of proceeding at once across the state of New Jersey to New York, a project for which it is expected he and Senator Frelinghuysen will now contend in Washington. Philadelphians may have some satisfaction in the knowledge that Mayor Preston, of Baltimore, and Mayor Hyland, of New York, are agitators in favor of the cross-cut New Jersey project. That would carry the waters of Chesapeake Bay by the city of Philadelphia to Raritan Bay at the port of New York, and by the same token would afford direct connection with Long Island Sound and New England.

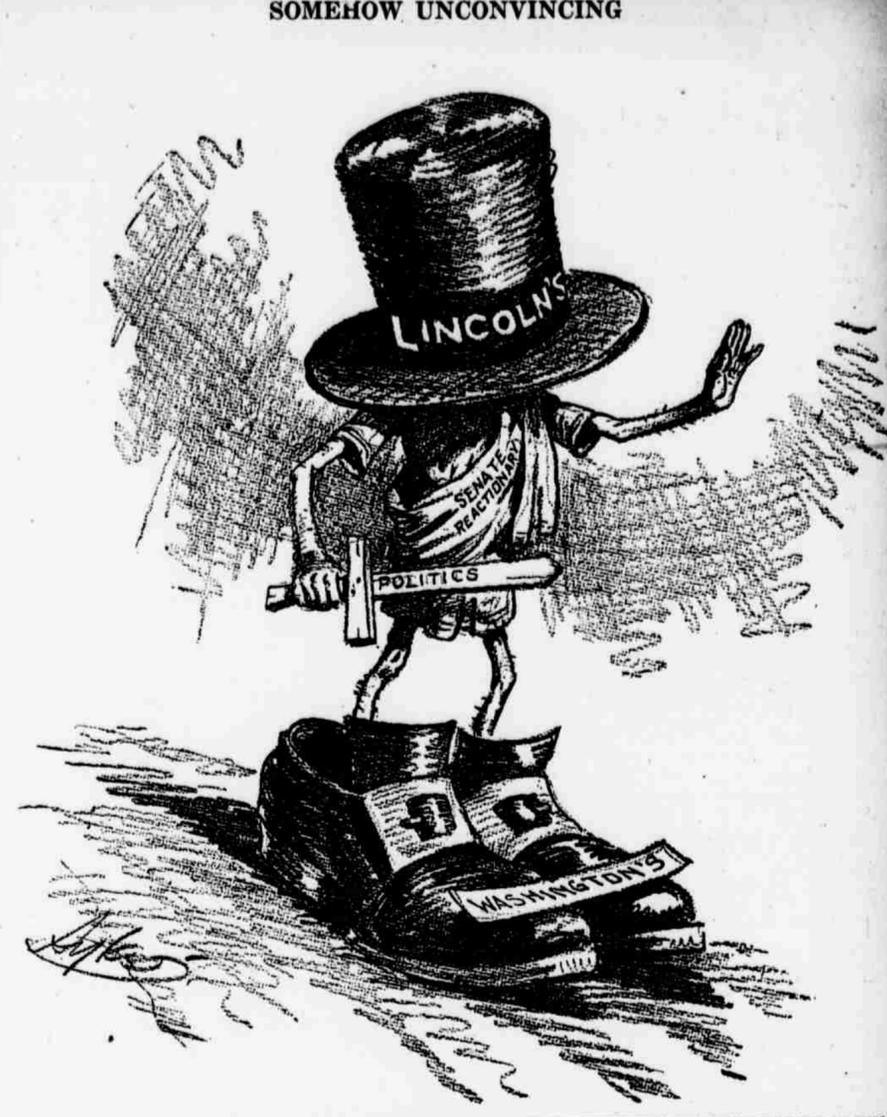
COLONEL JAMES E. BARNETT, once State Treasurer of Pennsylvania, has been visiting Washington. So has Senator A. E. Sisson, formerly Auditor General of the state. Barnett keeps in close touch with western Pennsylvania Congressmen and has a warm spot for his old Philippine partner, Colonel Tom Crago, Congressman-at-large. Sisson looks up Senator Clark, the Erie member, who is soon to retire, and other old-timers, to hasten the passage of the Longworth bill creating a commission for the maintenance of the Perry Victory Memorial, Put-in-Bay Island, Lake Erie. Sisson is one of a group of Pennsylvanians, included with General Nelson A. Miles, former Speaker Warren J. Keifer, of Ohio, and others, who are expected to keep green the memory of Commodore Perry and his victory. Other members from Pennsylvania include Milton W. Shreve, who is to succeed Senator Clark in Congress; Edwin H. Vore, who needs no introduction to a Philadelphia audience; T. C. Jones and George W. Neff. President Sisson's address at the launching of the Niagara, the Perry flagship, that was recovered from Misery Bay, is now safely ensconced in our historical archives.

FAIR be it from us to enter an epistolary but good-humored controversy between Thomas A. Edison and Herman A. Metz, formerly a Congressman from New York, concerning the manufacture of parantiline and other dyes which in which America is now endeavoring to compete with the world. We would rather leave that to Billy Matos's brother, Dr. Walter A. Matos, who has been lecturing in Washington and elsewhere on the subject. All we care to do at this time is to quote Edison to Metz concerning parantiline at \$1.80 per pound in December last, as against the German price of sixteen cents before the war. "No matter what the tariff may be," says Edison, "I have a vision that in a few years the owners of chemical works here will be around with a hand-organ and a monkey trying to make a living."

WE HEAR much about the work of the Council of National Defense. Lieutenant Governor Beideman made a speech on this subject at the Sprout dinner giving statistics as to Pennsylvania's participation in the war which are still remembered. The name of George Wharton Pepper is frequently mentioned and that of Effingham B. Morris, whose son made a record on the other side. But Joseph J. Tunney awaits an introduction to Washington favor. Tunney is a Philadelphia lawyer, who came from upstate and formed a connection for a time with the office of Murdock Kendrick. He is now associated with Meredith Hanna, Charley Joy and Bob Brannan, the old-time side-partners of the late James W. King. Tunney has not yet attained the reputation of a Brightly, but his digest of the war-risk insurance acts for the benefit of Philadelphia war workers has given him a fair start.

THERE are four thirty-third degree Masons in the House of Representatives, and they have been photographed together. They are William Kettner, a San Diego (Cal.) Democrat, who manages to get Republican support; Harry H. Pratt, of Corning, N. Y., from up where Sloat Fassett has a good deal to say politically; Allen T. Treadway, from Massachusetts, a Republican member of the Ways and Means Committee, and George P. Darrow, of the Sixth Pennsylvania District. These four are not the only Masons in Congress, but they are the only members who attained the highest rank in the fraternity. There are several past grand masters among both Democrats and Republicans.

ARTHUR H. MCGOWEN, a former newspaper man who broke into Councils and is now a manufacturer, has a penchant for music and poetry. It is reported here that several of his war songs made hits with the boys in France, one of them, "United America," going over the top occasionally when "The Long, Long Trail" was verdant.



THE ELECTRIC CHAIR

Sam and the Villagers A Fable

SAM lived in a large house just across the millpond from the village.

In the middle of the village, in comfortable dwellings, lived two powerful domineering chaps who suddenly went crazy. They attacked several unoffending neighbors, burned down houses, ran wild with firearms and soon the whole community was in an uproar.

Sam kept on with his work, even though missiles very soon began to fly his way and injure some of his family. He had always been a little suspicious of the village, ever since he had moved away from it years before in order to have more room to carry on his own affairs. However, he sent over some sandwiches to help those who were driven out of their homes.

The villagers, little by little, got together, banded against the two homicidal lunatics and tried to restrain them. But they were getting the worst of it and the village was given over to hideous ruin and wreckage. Sam, who loved the old place, watched what was going on with horror. Finally sparks began setting his roof on fire and he saw his former neighbors across the pond struggling for their lives and calling out for help.

He hustled across the pond with all the weapons he could muster and jumped into the tussle. He came late, but he came fresh, and he gave all he knew. With his arrival things began to get better. At last, though most of the old town lay in cinders and misery, they got the maniacs tied down. Then they sat down to think things over.

"What are we going to do to prevent this kind of thing happening again?" said one.

"Let's form an association for mutual protection," said another. "We'll all agree that if any one goes crazy in future each and all of us will stand together against him from the start. And we'll all agree to let a committee inspect whatever weapons we have on hand, so that no one will be able to accumulate a bunch of firearms and raise cash the way those fellows did."

"Let's ask Sam about it," said another.

"He's got more wind left than we have, maybe he can think clearer. For me, I'm about all in."

"You go to the deuce," said Sam. "I've sweat blood for the old village, but I don't like that idea of any one coming over to my place and looking over my tools. You folks have got nothing to fear from me. I'm going home and get busy."

"For heaven's sake, Sam," said the villagers, "just because you live across the pond don't act that way. The only way we can straighten this business up is by all standing together."

"No," said Sam. "I don't like the idea of an association. It might involve me in some responsibility. Of course, if those fellows go off the handle again I suppose I shall come over once more and lay into them; but I don't like the idea of any responsibility. Besides, your committee might vote for some kind of a shindy I wasn't interested in, and I'd have to come over and take a hand."

"Goodness gracious, Sam," said the disappointed villagers, "it's just to prevent there being any kind of serious trouble that we want every one on that committee."

"No," repeated Sam. "I don't mind coming over here when there's trouble and working my head off to save things, but I can't be troubled with committees. I hate responsibility."

"It's for your safety as well as ours," said

they, but Sam was already picking up his tools and departing. "I don't like being committed to anything," he said, "not even peace."

Publishing the Banns Those terrified and perplexed by Senator Lodge's apprehensions concerning the league of nations may pick up courage. It is only the necessary preliminary frightening known in matrimonial matters as "publishing the banns." Before "M" and "X" (as the prayer-book calls them) get married, the minister does his best to alarm them by pointing out the terrible, far-reaching and serious nature of the union. But in the end he always goes ahead and marries them just the same.

The favorite attack on Mr. Wilson used to be, He wouldn't let us go to war when we wanted to.

Now that argument, no longer useful, transforms itself into this: His league of nations scheme is going to force us into an endless succession of wars against our will.

Seems some inconsistency somewhere.

But we don't dare try to elaborate any entangling arguments about the I. of N. discussion. We are not even skillful enough to roll a cigarette with our fingers, and this subject is far more delicate. Intellectually speaking, we haven't the "makings."

Mr. Wilson finds that some Senators speak a language more difficult for him to understand than even French or Italian.

Even the most ardent lovers of Washington's Farewell Address seem to have forgotten that Washington ended it by saying he hoped his counsels would "now and then recur to moderate the fury of party spirit."

George Washington also said in the Farewell Address, "So far as we have already formed engagements, let them be fulfilled with perfect good faith."